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pp. 613-614

Notes that Castro ordered US to cut embassy staff and that this was the point at which US broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba

[Dw196.?]

Meanwhile, covert training of exiles for any possible future operations against fastro was going forward. Units were growing steadily in strength and efficiency against the time when actual tactical planning could be undertaken. In December, I suggested to the State Department that the time might now be propitious for ogganizing a "front" against // Castro among the refugee, with the United States regognizing the leader and his associates as the legal government of Cuba, with the provisio, however, that the exiles themselves would voluntarily select from their own number an acceptable "head of government." I added that if they could do so at once, "I'd like to see recognition accorded promptly -- if possible, before January 20."

On the morning of January 10, the New York Times carried an article, with a map, describing the training of anti-Castro forces in Guatemala. . . . it told most of the story. I decided that we should say nothing at all about this article. Believing that my successor might want some day to assist the refugee forces to move into Cuba, I considered that we were limited in what we could say about them.

So, to the incoming administration, we left units of Cuban refugees busily training and preparing hopefully for a return to their native land. Because they had as yet been unable to find the leader they wanted — a national leader known to be both anti-Castro and anti-Batista — it was impossible to make specific plans for a military invasion. However, their hatred of Castro, their patriotism, and their readiness to sacrifice for the restoration of freedom in Cuba could not be doubted.